

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method of providing an electronic mail messagenotification and delivery service s to for a subscriber in a telecommunication network, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in a network database the subscriber's electronic mail handling instructions; wherein the handling instructions are customizable by the subscriber and comprise at least one of the subscriber's electronic mail address, the subscriber's designated telephone for receiving electronic mail, the subscriber's electronic mail truncation instructions, a list of the subscriber's e-mail addresses for messages from those senders that the subscriber would like to receive, a plurality of keywords in a sender's electronic mail address that will activate the service, a plurality of keywords in a received electronic mail message's subject or body that will activate the service, and a priority level that will activate the service;

receiving an electronic mail message from a sender via a network element, the message specifying the subscriber as an intended recipient of the electronic mail message;

comparing information in the electronic mail message to the handling instructions stored in the network database for the subscriber;

~~where said electronic mail message is to be routed to the subscriber via a telephone;~~ converting textual content in the electronic mail message to an audio message;

truncating the audio message according to the truncation instructions,
wherein the truncation instructions comprise which messages are to be truncated
and the truncation length; and
_____ establishing a call to a telephone designated by the subscriber; and
transmitting the audio message to the designated telephone.

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 28, further comprising the steps of:
determining of whether the subscriber also subscribes to a caller identification service for providing caller identification information; and
transmitting caller identification information to the telephone designated by the subscriber, the information including an indication that a telephone call received by the subscriber contains an electronic mail message.

32. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 31, wherein the caller identification information further comprises the identity of the sender of the electronic mail message.

33. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 31, wherein the caller identification information further comprises a subject matter identifier of the electronic mail message.

34. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 31, wherein the caller identification information further comprises a portion of the text of the electronic mail message.

35. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 28, further comprising the step of sending a distinctive ringing pattern corresponding to the inclusion of an electronic mail message in the call.

36. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 29, wherein the email message is not transmitted to a subscriber unless header information in the electronic mail message indicates that the message is urgent.

37. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 28, further comprising the steps of:
prompting the subscriber to enter a feature activation code, the code comprising a signal to the telecommunication network to store the audio message in a voice mailbox; and
storing the audio message in a voice mail box upon receiving the code.

38. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 28, further comprising the steps of:
prompting the subscriber to enter a feature activation code, the code comprising a signal to the telecommunication network to repeat the playing of the audio message; and
repeating the playing of the audio message upon receiving the feature activation code.

39. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 28, wherein ~~the telecommunication network includes~~further comprising an automated intelligent network for the automated processing of telephone calls ~~in the network~~.

40. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 39, wherein the network database comprises a service control point database in the intelligent network.

41. (currently amended) A ~~telecommunication system adapted to~~for providing to a subscriber an audio message converted from an electronic mail message, the system comprising:

~~a plurality of communication devices adapted to send and receive telephone calls;~~

~~— a plurality of electronic mail devices adapted to send and receive electronic mail messages;~~

a service control point in an Intelligent Network having call handling control logic and a database for storing call handling information and electronic mail handling instructions, the service control point being adapted to compare header information in an electronic mail message received by the service control point to electronic mail handling instructions stored in the database and to route the electronic mail message to ~~the~~a telephone number specified by the intended subscriber when the handling instructions so indicate, wherein the electronic mail handling instructions are customizable by the subscriber and comprise at least one of the subscriber's electronic mail address, the subscriber's designated telephone for receiving electronic mail, the subscriber's electronic mail truncation instructions, a list

of the subscriber's e-mail addresses for messages from those senders that the subscriber would like to receive, a plurality of keywords in a sender's electronic mail address that will activate the service, a plurality of keywords in a received electronic mail message's subject or body that will activate the service, and a priority level that will activate the service; and

a text-to-audio converter adapted to convert text in an electronic mail message to an audio message.

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The ~~telecommunication~~ system defined in claim 4241, wherein the electronic mail message is truncated according to the truncation instructions specified by the subscriber.

44-51 (canceled)

52. (new) A system for providing an electronic mail message delivery service for a subscriber, the method comprising the steps of:

means for storing the subscriber's electronic mail handling instructions, wherein the handling instructions are customizable by the subscriber and comprise at least one of the subscriber's electronic mail address, the subscriber's designated telephone for receiving electronic mail, the subscriber's electronic mail truncation instructions, a list of the subscriber's e-mail addresses for messages from those senders that the subscriber would like to receive, a plurality of keywords in a sender's electronic mail address that will activate the service, a plurality of keywords in a received electronic mail message's subject or body that will activate the service,

and a priority level that will activate the service;

means for receiving an electronic mail message from a sender via a network element, the message specifying the subscriber as an intended recipient of the electronic mail message;

means for comparing information in the electronic mail message to the handling instructions stored in the network database for the subscriber;

means for converting textual content in the electronic mail message to an audio message;

means for truncating the audio message according to the truncation instructions, wherein the truncation instructions comprise which messages are to be truncated and the truncation length; and

means for transmitting the audio message to the designated telephone.

53. (new) The system defined in claim 52, further comprising:

means for determining of whether the subscriber also subscribes to a caller identification service for providing caller identification information; and

means for transmitting caller identification information to the telephone designated by the subscriber, the information including an indication that a telephone call received by the subscriber contains an electronic mail message.

54. (new) The system defined in claim 53, wherein the caller identification information further comprises the identity of the sender of the electronic mail message.

55. (new) The system defined in claim 54, wherein the caller identification information further comprises a subject matter identifier of the electronic mail

message.

56. (new) The system defined in claim 55, wherein the caller identification information further comprises a portion of the text of the electronic mail message.

57. (new) The system defined in claim 52, further comprising the step of sending a distinctive ringing pattern corresponding to the inclusion of an electronic mail message in the call.

58. (new) The system defined in claim 57, wherein the email message is not transmitted to a subscriber unless priority level is urgent.

59. (new) The system defined in claim 58, further comprising:
means for prompting the subscriber to enter a feature activation code, the code comprising a signal to the telecommunication network to store the audio message in a voice mailbox; and
means for storing the audio message in a voice mail box upon receiving the code.

60. (new) The system defined in claim 58, further comprising:
means for prompting the subscriber to enter a feature activation code, the code comprising a signal to the telecommunication network to repeat the playing of the audio message; and
means for repeating the playing of the audio message upon receiving the feature activation code.

61. (new) The system defined in claim 52, further comprising an automated intelligent network for the automated processing of telephone calls in the network.

62. (new) The system defined in claim 61, wherein the means for storing the subscriber's electronic mail handling instructions comprises a service control point database in the intelligent network.